

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:198
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
MISSING PAINTING FROM IARI
Muttermwar Shri Vilas Baburao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the two highly precious paintings stolen from the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) were put to auction at London;
- (b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details of the findings thereof; and
- (d) the follow-up-action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) An e-mail message was received on 23rd November, 2010 from M/s Sothebys of London, U.K., to the effect that two paintings of Roerich were brought to them by a client for sale, and that the Roerich Museum at New York had informed them that these paintings were in the collection of IARI. These paintings have so far not been put to auction, as IARI had informed M/s Sothebys that these paintings did indeed belong to IARI.

(b) to (d): CBI has registered a criminal case RC 2202011(E) 0014 on 13.09.2011 under section 120-B, 380 IPC and section 25 r/w section of Antiquities & Art Treasure Act, 1972.